

**Board of County Commissioners  
Agenda Item Summary**

Meeting Date: January 19, 2005  
Bulk Item: Yes ☐ No ☒

Division: Board of County Commissioners  
Department: **George R. Neugent**

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**AGENDA ITEM WORDING:**

A request to enter into an inter-local agreement with the Monroe County School Board to design, construct and maintain mutually a joint use Park at the Sugarloaf School.

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**ITEM BACKGROUND:**

This item has been discussed conceptually previously by the Board to provide direly needed recreation facilities to the Lower Keys.

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**PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOCC ACTION:**

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**CONTRACT/AGREEMENT CHANGES:**

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**STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:**

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**TOTAL COST:**

**BUDGETED:** YES ☐ NO ☐

**COST TO COUNTY:** \$ TBA

Source of Funds: \_\_\_\_\_

**REVENUE PRODUCING:** YES ☐ NO ☐ **AMT PER MONTH:** **YEAR:**

**APPROVED BY:** COUNTY ATTY ☐ OMB/PURCHASING ☐ RISK MANAGEMENT ☐

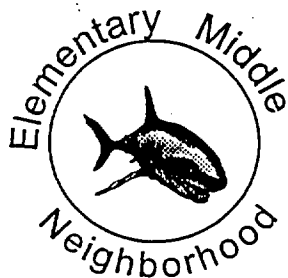
**APPROVAL:**

  
Commissioner GEORGE R. NEUGENT  
DISTRICT II

**DOCUMENTATION:** INCLUDED ☒ TO FOLLOW ☐ NOT REQUIRED ☐

**DISPOSITION:**

**AGENDA ITEM #** 0.3



# SUGARLOAF SCHOOLS

Theresa Axford, Principal  
Jim Hall, Assistant Principal  
Marilyn Douthett, Assistant Principal

Nov. 16, 2004

The Honorable Murray Nelson  
Mayor of Monroe County  
99198 Overseas Highway  
Key Largo, Florida 33037

STEVE MILLER

Dear Mayor Nelson,

With the election of our new Superintendent, Randy Acevedo, I wanted to write to you once again to notify you that Randy is also very interested in pursuing an Interlocal agreement between the County and the School Board to develop the fields at Sugarloaf.

I hope that you have had time to read my letter of October 29 and had time to give my request some consideration. I must reiterate that developing the Sugarloaf fields will have an incredible positive impact on the residents of Big Pine, the Torches, Cudjoe, Summerland, Sugarloaf, Bay Point and Big Coppitt and their children. I can't think of another project that would be so meaningful to so many people.

As principal of Sugarloaf School, I can assure you that the fields will be a blessing to the children of this community and their parents. Our School Advisory Council has decided to dedicate themselves to this project this year. We would be willing to appear at a County Commission meeting to explain our thoughts on the matter.

Children need opportunities for worthwhile activities and this sports complex would certainly make this possible. In addition, as stated in my last letter, childhood obesity is a very real threat to children that all members of the community must face and do something to counteract. These playing fields would create limitless opportunities for exercise and would definitely make a difference in the lives of Lower Keys residents. Please inform us what additional information we need to organize to facilitate this process. We are available to meet at your request.

Sincerely,

Theresa Axford  
Principal

Cc: Randy Acevedo, Superintendent of Schools, Commissioners Dixie Spehar, George Neugent, Charles "Sonny" McCoy, David Rice; Monroe County School Board; Patricia Roman, Sugarloaf School Advisory Council Chairperson

255 CRANE BOULEVARD  
SUMMERLAND KEY, FL

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"A GREAT PLACE FOR KIDS" "A CHALLENGING EXPERIENCE"



# SUGARLOAF SCHOOLS

Theresa Axford, Principal  
Jim Hall, Assistant Principal  
Marilyn Douthett, Assistant Principal

Oct. 29, 2004

The Honorable Murray Nelson  
Mayor of Monroe County  
99198 Overseas Highway  
Key Largo, Florida 33037

Dear Mayor Nelson,

I'm writing to you to ask assistance in beginning a process which will generate a recreational area for boys and girls who live from Big Pine Key to Key West, Florida. The area which needs to be developed lies adjacent to US1 at the 20 mile marker. It runs alongside of Sugarloaf School.

Two years ago a committee of parents from Sugarloaf approached the County Commission about the need for a recreational area for our children in this area. Mr. George Neugent was supportive of our efforts and talk began about a possible Interlocal agreement between the school board and the county which would bring the recreation area to life. Based on the Interlocal concept, the county would develop the land and the school board would agree to maintain it. The Superintendent at the time, Mike Lannon was in favor of this agreement and the current Superintendent, John Padgett supports this effort wholeheartedly.

To give some history, when Sugarloaf School was built, the area, of which I am speaking, was intended to be developed into a baseball field (regulation size), a soccer field, a football field, a track and 4 tennis courts. The land was cleared and permits were obtained to do all these things.

Because of funding constraints, and rightly so, these needs were put on the back burner because the most important priority in the school district for students, parents, and teachers alike is adequate facilities and classroom space to educate our children.

But for us at Sugarloaf School and the surrounding communities, it is of paramount importance that we develop this recreational area for our children. Although space has been allocated and developed in Big Pine for recreation, the area is not large enough to support the kinds of sports activities that our children need. Being in the unincorporated part of Monroe County, we feel that it is the county who should look after the interests of the children and families in this area by providing a community recreational space that would keep our children engaged in productive activities. They would be safe in an athletic complex and not congregating where inappropriate things could happen. We would also be promoting healthy life styles in a country where childhood obesity is a threat to adult health and future productive lives. The development of athletic fields at Sugarloaf School would certainly make a difference in the lives of the

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"A PLACE WHERE DREAMS BECOME REAL"

children and parents living in this section of the Keys in positive ways too numerous to quantify. Please assist us in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Theresa Axford".

Theresa Axford  
Principal

Cc: John Padget, Superintendent of Schools; Commissioners Dixie Spehar, George Neugent, Charles "Sonny" McCoy, David Rice; Monroe County School Board; Patricia Roman, Sugarloaf School Advisory Council Chair

November 26, 2004

Dear Commissioner:

I am not only a parent of a child at Sugarloaf Elementary School, but I am a former student as well. I remember the old Sugarloaf Elementary. As an adult, I am truly impressed about the positive changes that have been made at the school since I was a child. Times have changed in the Florida Keys and to my heart's discontent, there remains one key area that has not been developed. There are no playing fields for our children. Not even at our very own school!

As a lifetime resident and full-time Realtor I understand and can appreciate development in the keys. When I was growing up on Big Pine Key there weren't any sports programs. I didn't have the opportunity to learn a new skill, exercise, and socialize. These are three key elements that we need to remain healthy and continue to do so through adolescence. So I ask, where is the true quality of life for our youth? Yes, we are in paradise, but children don't know that and cannot appreciate it at their age. They want to play with their friends after school and release the bottled up energy.

There isn't a fully organized area from the 7-mile bridge to Key West. Though I am grateful that we have St. Peters Church and Watson Field, neither support the adequate need for regulations in different sports. Moreover, the issue with preservation and conservation doesn't make it conducive for parents and participants to push the development of fields.

Sugarloaf Elementary School has the area to be fully developed for our children to get the necessary exercise, skills, and socialization needed for a healthy development. There isn't much else to offer our youth. It's also positive reinforcement. It's a part of their school. It's pride. It's discipline. It's skill development. It's mental and physical health. Must I continue?

When proceeding with your planning, please include the funding necessary to move forward for our youth and community. We need a recreational facility.

Sincerely,

Sylvia DeLorenzo-Werling

OTHER LETTERS PROVIDED  
UPON REQUEST